4 August 2015

Jacki Couchman

Head of Veterans Affairs

PO Box 5146

**WELLINGTON 6145**

**RNZRSA SUBMISSION – VETERANS SUPPORT ACT 2014 SCHEME TWO AND VETERAN INDEPENDENCE PROGRAMME REGULATIONS**

**Details**

1. This submission is from David Moger, on behalf of the Royal New Zealand Returned and Services’ Associationof which I am the Chief Executive. The RNZRSA thanks Veteran’s Affairs for this opportunity to comment.

**The Submission**

1. The RNZRSA submits the following:
   1. **s7 Definition of accepted late-onset condition:** The proposed approach states that Veteran’s Affairs (VA) will consider new late-onset conditions as they are determined by the Australian Repatriation Medical Authority (ARMA).

**RNZRSA Comments:** There may be instances where a veteran dies of a condition subsequently accepted as a late on-set condition by the ARMA. In this case their dependant/s may seek VA support in retrospect. In these cases we feel it is only just and fair that eligibility for VA support begins from the date of qualifying service of the individual.

**Recommendation:** The RNZRSA recommends that the regulations allow for the back-dating of eligibility for support to the dependents of veterans with qualifying service, and who die of a condition that is posthumously accepted as a late-onset condition.

* 1. **s 96(3) Financial entitlements and related matters – Lump Sum option for Independence Allowance – for injuries or illnesses from 1 April 1972 to 31 March 2002:** The proposed approach does not discuss the intended provisions if a veteran, who has received a Lump Sum, dies before the Lump Sum period has ended.

**RNZRSA Comments:** We feel that that a benevolent approach similar to the provisions for the Scheme One Terminal Lump Sum Payment should apply.

**Recommendation:** The RNZRSA recommends that the regulations confirm there is no expectation of repayment of the Lump Sum if the veteran dies before the end of the Lump Sum period.

Yours sincerely



David Moger

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**